AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a storage medium supported in a housing;

a user-input value that links to in a unique set of patterns that when used to overwrite a data file meets an approved standard;

an erase trigger that effectuates overwrites of data files on the storage medium, where each said overwrite comprises said ~~a plurity of~~ unique set of patterns to each said data file and is periodically activated at a discrete point in time prior to the initiation of said overwrite, subsequent to the user entering the parameters for said overwrite, the number and order of said ~~unique~~ patterns varies according to said ~~a~~ user-input value identified for each of said data file;

a secure storage medium eraser comprising an overwrite algorithm that erases the data file on the storage medium in response to the erase trigger; and

a report generator that can create a report on a status of a triggered erasure in response to predetermined criteria.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the report created by the report generator is printed on a substrate.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the report is printed by a printing device in which the storage medium being erased is housed.

4. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the report is printed by a printing device in communication with the secure storage medium eraser.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the report created by the report generator is an e-mail message.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5 wherein the e-mail message is sent to a system administrator.

7. (Previously Amended) The device of claim 5 wherein the email message is sent to the user setting the erase trigger.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the report is a sound.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the report generator is configurable by an administrator only.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined criteria include at least one of an indication of whether a report should be created, a type of report to be generated, and a destination of the report.

11. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the predetermined criteria can be set via a report setup interface.

12. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a storage medium supported in a housing;

a user-input value that links to a unique set of patterns that when used to overwrite a data file meets an approved standard;

a stored pattern table containing a plurality of patterns that can be accessed according to an overwrite algorithm;

an erase trigger periodically executed at a discrete point in time prior to the initiation of said overwrite, subsequent to the user entering the parameters for said overwrite, that effectuates an overwrite of a data file on the storage medium, wherein said overwrite comprises said ~~a~~ unique set of patterns selected from said ~~a~~ stored pattern table that is unique to said data file and is activated according to a user-input value identified for said data file;

a secure storage medium eraser comprising said ~~an~~ overwrite algorithm that erases the ~~a~~ data file on the storage medium in response to the erase trigger;

a report generator that creates a report on a status of a triggered erasure in response to predetermined criteria; and

a report setup interface through which the predetermined criteria can be set.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12 further including at least one graphical user interface (GUI) element of the report setup interface with which a user can set parameters of the predetermined criteria with which the report generator can create a report.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the at least one GUI element includes a button.

15. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the at least one GUI element includes a virtual keyboard with which a user enters a value of a parameter.

16. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the report setup interface includes a report element indicative of whether a report should be created.

17. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the report setup interface includes a type element indicative of what type of report should be created.

18. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the report setup interface includes a destination element indicative of where the report should be sent.

19. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the report setup interface is accessible by an administrator only.

20. (Original) The device of claim 12 further including an input apparatus and wherein the report setup interface is accessed via the input apparatus.

21. (Original) The device of claim 12 wherein the report setup interface is accessed via driver software on a computer in communication with the device.

22. (Previously Amended) A selective secure erase report generation method comprising:

overwriting a data file with a set of patterns chosen from a stored pattern table that is unique to said data file according to a predetermined secure erase method in response to an erase trigger periodically activated at a discrete point in time prior to the initiation of said overwrite, subsequent to the user entering the parameters for said overwrite, by user-input value identified for said data file;

checking that said file has been erased according to a predetermined industry standard in response to a confirmation trigger;

determining whether a report should be generated; and

generating a report of the status of a triggered erasure when the report should be generated.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising determining a type of report to be generated.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising determining a destination for the report.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus including:

a storage medium supported in a housing;

a user-input value that links to a unique set patterns that when used to overwrite a data file meets an approved standard;

an erase trigger that effectuates an overwrite of a data file on the storage medium, where said overwrite is periodically activated at a discrete point in time prior to the initiation of said overwrite, subsequent to the user entering the parameters for said overwrite, and comprises using ~~a~~ said unique set of patterns selected from a pattern

table used to overwrite said data file and is activated according to said ~~a~~ user-input value identified for said data file;

a secure storage medium eraser comprising an overwrite algorithm that erases ~~a~~ the data file on the storage medium in response to the erase trigger;

a report generator that creates a report on a status of a triggered erasure in response to predetermined criteria including at least one of an indication that a report is to be generated, a type of report to generate, and a destination for the report; and

a report setup interface through which the predetermined criteria can be set;

the apparatus performing a selective secure erase report generation method comprising:

checking to see whether a report is to be generated;

when a report is to be generated:

checking a type of report to generate;

checking a destination for the report; and

generating the report at the destination.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the report is to be printed on a substrate, the apparatus further performing:

checking where the report should be printed;

printing the report at the apparatus if the apparatus is the destination; and

printing the report on another device when another device is the destination.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the report is to be an e-mail message, the apparatus further performing sending an e-mail message to an e-mail address specified via the report setup interface.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the report is to be a log entry and the apparatus further performs writing the entry in a log file specified via the report setup interface.